Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. – 33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently amended) A device for controlled local delivery of rifaximin comprising between 0.5 wt% and 30 wt% rifaximin and a bi-phasic material, wherein in said bi-phasic material the solid phase is an elastic polymeric matrix comprising polyvinylalcohol, and the liquid phase is water that fills up the pores of said matrix

thereby avoiding an intense red color from rifaximin at the site of administration.

35. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 34 wherein the weight ratio between the water and the polymeric matrix is up to 10.

36. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 34 said polymeric matrix comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, ~~cellulose derivatives,~~ alkyl-cellulose, hydroxyalkyl-cellulose and polyacrylates.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 34 wherein said polymeric matrix further comprises an acrylic polymer.

39. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 38 containing between 0.5 wt% and 30 wt% of rifaximin, 10 wt% of polyvinylalcohol and between 0.2 wt% and 20 wt% of acrylic polymer.

40. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 34 further comprising a bio-adhesive polymer.

41. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 40 wherein said bio-adhesive polymer is selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, alginates, carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose and acrylic polymers.

42. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 40 wherein said bio-adhesive polymer is homogeneously mixed into the polymeric matrix.

43. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 40 wherein said bio-adhesive polymer is applied to the surface of the polymeric matrix.

44. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 34 in the form of a film.

45. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 34 containing in combination with rifaximin also other antibiotics and/or antiinflammatory and/or pain relief and/or anesthetic drugs.

46. (Withdrawn) Method for the delivery of rifaximin in the oral cavity that comprises utilizing the device of claim 40.

47. (Withdrawn) Process for the preparation of a device according to claim 34 comprising the following steps:

a) rifaximin and said bi-phasic material are dissolved in water;

b) a divalent salt is added to the solution of step a).

48. (Withdrawn) Process as claimed in claim 47 wherein said divalent salt is calcium chloride.

49. (Withdrawn) Process as claimed in claim 47 wherein said divalent salt is added at a concentration of up to 2 wt%.

50. (Withdrawn) Process as claimed in claim 47 wherein the solution of the step a) contains 10 wt% of polyvinylalcohol, between 0.2 wt% and 20 wt% of acrylic polymer and between 0.5 wt% and 30 wt% of rifaximin.